

Silhouette

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Ambridge Area High School

November 1996

Bomb scare strikes Ambridge High

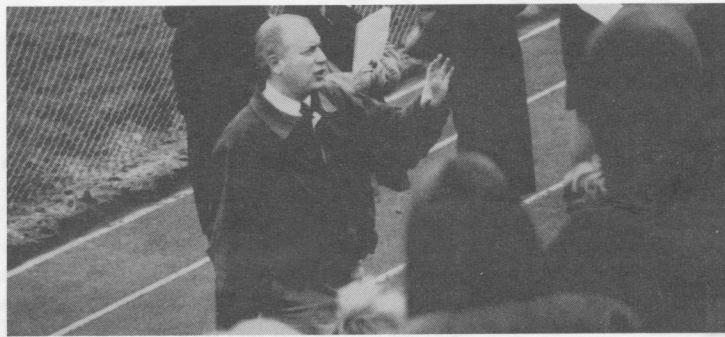
by Mike Cody

Perhaps senior Bob Espey put it best when he said, "Thanks to the stupidity of others, we got a half day." After all, that's all people will remember about November 14, 1996. A few kids called in a bomb threat, and all the students got to leave early. It was just a harmless joke.

Wasn't it?

For Ambridge's administration, the bomb threat phoned into the high school's main office was no laughing matter. Surprisingly, most Ambridge students surveyed felt that the suspects should be severely punished. Senior Kelly McCormack said with disgust, "I just don't understand how they could do that. If you don't want to learn, I do, so don't bother me."

At approximately 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 14, a



Vice-Principal Mullen relays information to student body. Photo by Joe Kulik

bomb threat was phoned into Ambridge High's main offices. Around three minutes later, a second bomb threat, this one featuring a different caller, was placed. The office secretaries used the *57 tracing system, which redials a number and reports it to local authorities. Meanwhile, assistant principals Mr. Roman and Mr. Mullen began evacuating

the school to the stadium according to fire drill procedure. Principal Dr. Parry was in a meeting during the time of the threat and was unaware of the situation until after Mr. Roman and Mr. Mullen had begun evacuating the school.

While students cheered the possible destruction of their school, the local fire department

checked every open locker. Ambridge's administration was unsure if the bomb threat was still a hoax after students had spent approximately 45 minutes in Moe Rubenstein stadium. Therefore, the buses were called, and the students were dismissed while a dog from the County of Allegheny Airport thoroughly searched the sealed lockers. The search confirmed what the administration had hoped all along: The threat was a hoax.

When asked how he felt the Ambridge student body handled the situation, Dr. Parry said that the students' behavior was exemplary. Dr. Parry said that although he had never previously faced a bomb threat during his years in public education, Ambridge's students were very cooperative and understanding. The principal

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An attempt to balance the scales

by Katie Madonna

Grading scale—a phrase that strikes fear in the hearts of students and faculty alike. That fear is of four scales in four years. Relax Ambridge, it is not to be.

The scale was first changed in the 1993-94 school year to remove weighted courses. Some departments in the school (business, home ec.) felt it was not fair for them to have fewer weighted courses than the math and science departments. Dr. Parry feels that weighted classes need to be brought back. This is for two reasons. Some scholarships are based on only grade point average for consideration and the 4.0 scale is

bad for Ambridge's public image. An example of this is the scholarship portion of the Junior Miss pageant. "Ambridge contestants are at a disadvantage even though they are receiving the best grades possible at their school; their transcripts have 4.0's, while most of the other girls who go to schools with weighted courses have much higher GPA's, some even as high as 4.75," said senior Jaime Cole, former Junior Miss contestant.

Dr. Parry plans to organize a grading committee composed of faculty. "I will definitely get student input," he asserted. He would also like the students and community to know that out of the

45 school districts Prosoft, the company who programs the school's grading and ranking system, deals with, there are 32 ways of calculating class rank. He believes "the answer comes from a philosophy." Right now the administration is trying to develop a better understanding of the district's philosophy. "Who are we communicating grades to?" is the question to be defined. Dr. Parry said, "When you are fair in one way you may be unfair in another way."

The big problem with weighing courses is the same one posed in 1993: Which courses should be weighted? Many theories and ideas are being

passed around, but Dr. Parry knows "there's no easy answer." He defined it as a "whole picture problem," meaning everyone

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Lack of respect plagues Ambridge

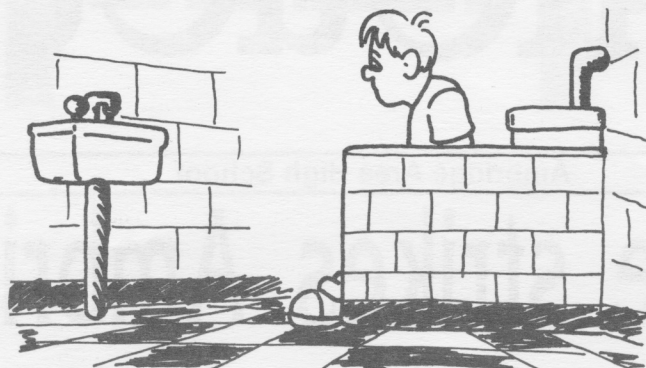
by Doug Costa

It seems that at least once every year an article is written on the lack of respect which has plagued our society and, therefore, our school. It is not out of deference to tradition, however, that I write this article. It is because we really do seem to be losing touch with certain basic values, and with each other.

We are living in a world that often seems to be doing its best to hold us down. Unfortunately, we are often willing to let it and we are often willing to HELP it hold us down. This often hides behind expressions such as "What difference can I make?" and "I'm too young to do anything." Those who say these things are missing one point: just as much as we are all part of the problem, so must we be part of the solution. It is far easier to take an indifferent attitude, but I would like to think that we all know that does not accomplish anything. If we are to overcome our current problems, we must first stare into the face of them, and into ourselves, and find a solution.

This solution does not involve putting others down. It does not involve blaming others. These seem to be our two favorite mechanisms for dealing with a situation, and they must stop. We are far too young to let ourselves become cynical. If at our age we cannot look at each other and see some measure of unity, where will we be when we have grown old? It is impossible for me to comprehend this, in part because of the hypocrisy that is inherent in our cynicism. Ask a group of people if they are correct in their beliefs, and they will without fail tell you that they are. Ask another and they will tell you that the first group is wrong, but that THEY are right. How can we criticize the aloofness of others when we are actually doing little more than attempting to place them below us? Clearly, we cannot and we must not. I make no attempt to say who or what is right; all I say is that, for now, and for our own good, we must assume that we all are.

Naturally, this lack of respect towards others extends far



POOR BILLY WAS NOT FAST ENOUGH.
THE BELL JUST RANG AND THE LUNCH
CROWD WILL SOON BE IN, WATCHING,
LAUGHING.

Joe Kulik

beyond our relations with each other. It seems that we have lost a great deal of our respect in general. To see an example of this, simply look into our restrooms. The lack of respect includes not only the specific writings you will encounter, but also the very fact that these writings exist at all. Why must we vandalize a restroom, of all things? I think that most males would agree that paper towels, mirrors or doors on our stalls would be nice, but as soon as these things appear they are written on and ultimately dismembered by someone who has so much free time as to spend it destroying a restroom. At the end of October, several student volunteers spent a Saturday morning repainting the restrooms, only to find them adorned with their usual decorations by the middle of the following week. This is where the connection exists between our general lack of respect towards the school and our specific lack of respect for each other. I am not asking that you render our restrooms shrines, I am asking that you respect the time and effort that was exhibited by a group of students attempting to help our school.

That may seem like a rather insignificant issue (unless you were one of the people painting that Saturday morning), but it is not. It is indicative of an entire mentality, a mentality which has led us to the point where care and consideration are no longer issues. We are reaching the point where we must decide if this is the path that will choose to lead our

lives by. We must all look deep within ourselves and discover if we are really satisfied with our lives, for if we are not, the time to change is full upon us. We are in the days of youth, but these days will not last forever. The fires of spring burn hot, but the flame will not, cannot and should not burn forever. It is imperative that we call upon each other to head in the direction which is right, the direction which leads us to mutual respect and understanding, before the chance has passed us by.

In an age such as this, when so many ask for respect, we should consider that the only way to gain the respect of others is to show them respect. Perhaps this is the idea that is most often lost sight of others will treat you only as well as you treat them. No harm comes from respect; in fact, the only things that can develop are trust, faith and cooperation. I find it hard to believe that there is a single person who cannot appreciate these qualities. I also find it hard to believe that something as simple as respecting others can lead to these things, yet we seem unwilling to make the first step.

Therein lies the key: we must first be willing to take the initiative if we are ever going to see a mutual respect. For the good of us all, this is our pursuit which we must make our highest priority.

Silhouette Staff

Ambridge Area High School

909 Duss Avenue

Ambridge, PA 15003

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The SILHOUETTE is the student newspaper of Ambridge Area High School. It is a laboratory for students pursuing the field of journalism and is designed to serve the total school community.

The SILHOUETTE will be a public forum for the exchange of comment and criticism, open to students, faculty, administration, parents, and others in the school community. The SILHOUETTE is the official school newspaper published once a month at the cost of 25 cents per issue. It is printed by the Record Printing Company of Ambridge.

The editorial opinion is that of the Editorial Board. Any letters to the editor may be submitted to any member of the staff or to the newspaper in Room B-8. Letters received are subject to review by the Board before publication.

Violence -- a different point of view

by Jaime Cole

It is in our streets, in our schools and even on our cartoons. It is violence, and it is everywhere. It must be stopped. There must be something that can be done to control it. What is happening to the world? Why are things suddenly so evil?

Those are questions and statements that have become quite common in society during the past half century. Are people trying to say that violence among us is a new trend? Yes, I agree that violence is a horrible aspect of life, but it is an inevitable horrible

aspect of all life.

Throughout history people lived by the basic philosophy "every man for himself." It was not uncommon in ancient times for a man to sacrifice his own daughter. Peasants crowded in town squares to witness men being forced under sharp blade of the guillotine in the Dark Ages. Random shooting sprees frequented streets of the Old West during the gold rush. The world everywhere was violent, yet we are all still here.

I hear people saying that they are not sure that they want to even bear children into this cruel world for fear of what this god-

awful place will be like when the children are grown. Why? Do not be scared of something so beautiful and precious. Instead relish in it, and take joy in life.

Everything on the earth occurs through a cycle. This cycle travels through different patterns and fluctuations. The earth is a self-regulating, self-renewing organism. It takes care of itself, knows when enough is enough. This is true of all aspects of life, from the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere to the number of murders committed on the streets of Chicago.

This theory of the earth and how everything fits together is called the Gaia Theory. Everything on the planet occurs from the energy of a central driving force. Violence is no exception.

I said before that the earth's cycles had certain fluctuations in it. In the past few centuries, the violence has been part of a downward trend. Maybe the cycle is starting to reverse its

course. I do believe that there are higher crime rates and more vicious acts of violence now than there were in the early 1900's, but eventually the cycle will reach its peak. Then the rates will start to decline once again and the central force of the earth will be its regulating mechanism.

I do not, in any form, commend any type of violence, nor do I tolerate it. I am merely trying to offer another point of view. Please do not stop fighting violence. We are supposed to. Just do not let the fear of it interfere with our life. Since violence is an inevitable part of our lives, of course at times we will be unhappy, even miserable, as a direct result of it. Be sad, cry and then move on. Do not let it dictate your life. Life is not constant. Everything in the world is subject to change. Sometimes, the only real answer is to believe. "For we walk by faith, not by sight." That ancient proverb still holds true today.



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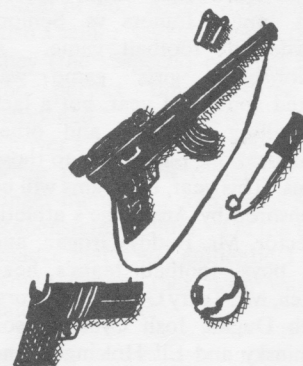
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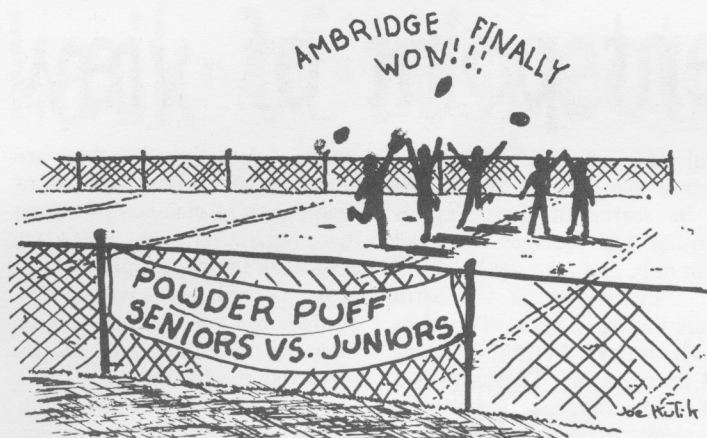
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Excitement runs high for Powder Puff football

by Mike Cody

This winter's hottest high school football action is about to begin. Soon, excitement will have a new name.

Puff-puff.

Wednesday, November 13 marks Ambridge High school's first annual Juniors vs. Seniors Powderpuff football game. A junior/senior girls' game was talked about last year, but a lack of willing sponsors and other complications put an end to those plans. This year, the teams will be sponsored by Ambridge's athletic director, Mr. Buddy Grogan, and the boys' football team's head coach, Mr. Terry George. Seniors: Rich Dugan, Josh Cybak, Jason Bohinsky and Eli Holsinger; and juniors: Gary Pugh, J.R. Edmunds and Gary Hill have risen to the challenge of coaching their grades' respective teams. At 7 p.m., under the lights of Moe Rubenstein Stadium, the juniors will clash with the seniors in a game that senior captain Kenisha Carlisle says "will be more exciting than the guys' football games." In yet another dig at this year's woeful boys' team, senior Claudia Burnett added, "Maybe the coach will want to recruit some of us girls!"

Excitement is running high for the impending battle. "Seniors will obliterate the foul carcasses of the juniors," said senior Stephanie

Szabo, adding, "I love Ron!" for no apparent reason. The consensus among most seniors playing is that their team will "kick the juniors' butts," in the words of Claudia Burnett. Strangely enough, no members of the junior team wished to comment when asked (presumably out of fear for the mighty seniors).

Clinton wins despite low voter turnout

by Sarah Clark

The votes are in! The experienced team of Clinton and Gore have again won the right to inhabit Washington D.C. for the next four years.

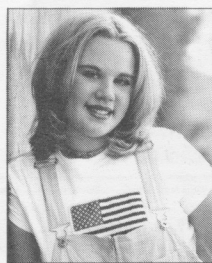
On November 5, millions of voters across the nation pulled the lever for the candidate of their choice. However, a report by Voters News Service showed that only about 49 percent of all citizens of legal voting age actually voted. This is the lowest number in 72 years. Why the drop in voters? Most people feel that this year's campaign was unexciting and voters lost interest in the election.

Despite the poor voter turnout, Clinton was still able to easily win re-election with 379 electoral votes, well above the required 270, and 31 states over Dole's 159 electoral votes and 19 states. Clinton also had 49 percent of the popular vote. These numbers make Clinton the first Democrat to be re-elected by a landslide since Franklin Roosevelt. Surprisingly though, a poll shows that six out of ten citizens who voted for Clinton did not believe he had told the truth about Whitewater and other

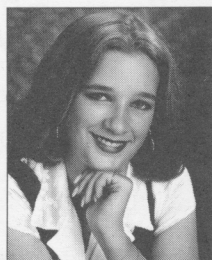
related matters. 55 percent of those polled also said they did not consider Clinton to be "honest and trustworthy."

Bob Dole does not try to pretend that he is not upset about losing the election. He received 41 percent of the popular vote and 80 percent of all Republican votes. Soon after President Clinton's victory was announced, Dole was quoted as saying, "It's a lot more fun winning. It hurts to lose an election."

As for Ross Perot, he repeated his 1992 sweep of absolutely no states and less than ten percent of the popular vote. However the words "give up" mean nothing to Perot. After the polls closed, Perot told his supporters, "Take a little break and then we'll climb back in the ring."



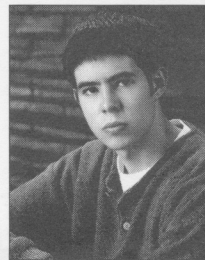
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SENIORS '97
By
T.R. McCLELLAN
PHOTOGRAPHY

375-0101

Hopewell Township



Cafeteria offers Christmas dance promotion

by Nicole Webb

This year ten high school couples will be attending the Mistletoe ball for free. The high school cafeteria will be holding a raffle for ten Mistletoe tickets during the first two weeks of December. Students will receive a raffle ticket after buying a hot lunch on certain days in December. Ala Carte purchases will not receive a ticket.

The raffle is sponsored by Ms. Theresa E. Janis of Hunt-Wesson food service company, and Mrs. Janet Giammaria, Ambridge school district's food service director. Last year the high school cafeteria sponsored a Steeler

Superbowl raffle but Mrs. Giammaria wanted to try something different for this year. At a convention that Mrs. Giammaria attended, Ms. Janis, an Ambridge graduate, suggested that the cafeteria use a Mistletoe ticket raffle as a means of getting more hot lunch buyers. Mrs. Giammaria, whose goal is to build hot lunch participation, was thrilled when Hunt-Wesson decided to donate the ten couple tickets for use in the raffle.

In October, the high school cafeteria sold approximately 387 hot lunches a day. With over 1000 students enrolled at the high school, hot lunch participation should be greater. Mrs.

Giammaria estimated that the cafeteria sells \$500 worth of nachos a day. The school district is reimbursed for every hot lunch sold, and is not reimbursed for nacho sales.

As one of the two registered dietitians employed by a Beaver County school district, Mrs. Giammaria describes her job by saying, "it's like walking a tightrope." She must prepare a menu that balances what students want to eat with what the government guidelines for school lunches are. In four years of working at Ambridge, she has reduced the fat content of lunches to meet with the government standards. Many students,

however, are turned off by the new reduced fat cafeteria food.

Promoting hot lunches at elementary schools is much easier than at the Jr. High and Sr. High levels. Elementary students receive a free pog or eraser; older students are harder to please.

Mrs. Giammaria said, "I'm always trying to think of something to do for the high school." A raffle of Mistletoe tickets is just the thing to encourage high school students to buy a hot lunch. Mrs. Giammaria looks forward to awarding the winners and is also eager to see an increase in hot lunch sales.

Bomb scare strikes Ambridge High

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himself was obviously glad that the entire incident was a hoax, though he was bothered by the way someone would consider a threat against the lives and safety of Ambridge's students and faculty a joke. Dr. Parry said that the suspects "totally underestimated" the situation they placed themselves in.

Dr. Parry stated that Ambridge's administration will legally pursue every means to make sure that the suspects are punished. He took great pride in the fact that the suspects' names had already been taken before the students went home, thanks to the quick responsiveness of both the staff and local police. Dr. Parry has already met with the parents of both suspects to outline their rights as students. Still, a bomb

threat is a Level III offense, which has a possible punishment of long term suspension or possible expulsion. Mr. Parry said that administration "will pursue the strongest available punishment." When asked if he feel the possible punishment of expulsion is severe for what started out as a joke, Dr. Parry adamantly stated that if he felt the punishment were too severe, it would not be pursued. Dr. Parry thanked Ambridge's staff and students for their outstanding behavior during the incident.

As for the suspects themselves, the Beaver County Times stated that Harmony Township police have charged an 18 year-old female and a 17 year-old female, both Ambridge students, with terroristic threats,

causing or risking a catastrophe and criminal mischief. Police refused to identify either individual but stated that the 17 year-old will be treated as a juvenile. The bomb threats were traced to a Harmony Township residence. After police went to the house and interviewed the 18 year-old and six other juveniles, all of whom were Ambridge students, they decided to officially charge the two young women.

Student response to the situation has been quite varied. Sophomore Sarah Clark attacked the school's response to the situation, saying, "I think it was obvious Ambridge hasn't had a bomb threat before since nobody knew what they were doing." Others have placed the blame solely on the suspects. Senior

Chrissy Karas said of the two young women, "They were my friends, but I think they deserve to get punished for what they did."

Other students looked back on the day laughingly. Senior Mike Larrick commented with a smirk, "I got my kicks at the bomb threat of '96." Angie Marchionda, also a senior, said jokingly, "I think they (the suspects) planned it at the perfect time because it happened right before Mrs. Shriver's class." And, of course, some people will remember the finger-numbing cold of Moe Rubenstein stadium. "On the slim chance that it was authentic, I still would have rather been warm," said Mr. Whyte.

Students bowl in "spare" time

continued from page 8

He too would like to pursue a professional bowling career.

Garrett Mudrick, freshman, started bowling at age two because his grandmother bought him a set of plastic pins and a ball to play with. By the time he was eight years old, Garrett had already started bowling in amateur tournaments. He has bowled in the Greater Pittsburgh Association Scholarship Tournament and the Junior Bowlers' Tour. He has traveled to Butler, Morgantown,

Erie and Canton, Ohio. This year will be the first time Garrett has traveled to West Virginia for a bowling tournament. So far, he has been in approximately 25 tournaments.

Garrett can be found bowling at either Baden Bowl or Beaver Valley Bowl every Saturday and he travels on Sundays. He is involved in two leagues and loves every minute of it. Though he has not won a tournament yet, Garrett has no plans to quit bowling soon.

"It is my hope and dream to someday be successful on the professional tour," he said. However he made it clear that he would definitely attend college first.

Garrett has an average of around 200 points and bowled his highest score ever with 279 points on October 26. His highest series so far has been 687 points. When asked if amateur bowling was very competitive, Garrett replied, "Not too many teenagers take bowling

seriously; but the ones who do can be pretty competitive."



Bridger Review



Restaurant Review

by Carole Bunting

The first thing that caught my eye when I walked into the Elbow Room, which recently opened in Ambridge and is located at 1601 Duss Avenue, were the seasonal decorations. One other pair of diners were eating when we arrived, and those were the only people we encountered throughout the course of our meal. The lounge, which was located in the basement, sounded rather crowded.

The dining area was not very big. There were booths along the two walls opposite each other and a few tables and chairs between the rows of booths. My dining partner and I sat in a booth and agreed that they were quite comfortable. Eight ceiling fans were crowded together in the small room, which I thought was about four too many. Music from the radio station 3WS played throughout our meal.

During the twenty-minute wait for our meal, we enjoyed our beverages and salads, which were very good. Although the selection of appetizers was quite large, we elected not to order from that area of the menu.

When our meals arrived, we commented on how appetizing the food looked; unfortunately, the quality of the food was not as good as the appearance. I had the deep fried whole cornish hen and my dining partner had sirloin tips. The food was not bad, but it was not as good as mediocre. For the quality of the food we received, I thought the prices were much, much too high. The best part of my meal was the mashed potatoes, and they were instant.

The dinners start at \$6.95, and there is a large selection to choose from, such as seafood, pasta, handcut steaks and poultry. The menu also featured a wide variety of sandwiches, with their prices beginning at \$2.50. For dessert, there was a selection of assorted pies, cakes, cheesecakes and ice cream.

The appearance of the restaurant and the quality of the food we ate did not match the prices they charged, which were way too expensive. I did not like the Elbow Room, and I would have had a better time and saved around \$10 if I had gone to McDonald's instead.



Video Review

by Peggy Madonna

The Birdcage, a remake of a 1978 French comedy *Le Cage Aux Folles*, is a very funny movie that is now out on video.

The story's main characters are played by Robin Williams and Nathan Lane. They play a gay middle-aged couple who are faced with an interesting challenge. When Williams' son comes home to visit, the couple must try to act straight for Williams' son's fiancée and her parents, who are played by Gene Hackman and Dianne Wiest.

This movie has a slow start, but it is just setting up the situation of the two families meeting. Williams and Lane both give outstanding performances; Williams as a verbal, rather than physical comedian, and Lane as an outrageously flamboyant performer. Hank Anzaria, who hilariously plays the couple's butler is so feminine, he can't even wear men's shoes without tripping.

I definitely recommend this movie to all of the open-minded people who enjoy a good laugh. But, if you are not so open-minded, you will probably hate this movie.



Book Review

by Kristie Miller

And Then There Were None is a classic tale of suspense written by world famous mystery author, Agatha Christie. This book was originally entitled, *Ten Little Indians*. The childhood nursery

rhyme provides a unique theme woven throughout this tale of intrigue and suspense. The setting is a remote island off the coast of England in the 1930's.

As the story begins, ten noted people, representing various backgrounds from around the world, receive mysterious invitations. Eventually, each stranger is deceived into travelling to the island either for employment or a grand vacation. The guests arrive and soon learn that the master of the house is not present. Later at an after dinner tea the affair is abruptly interrupted. A shrill voice resonates throughout the room accusing each guest of murder.

The plot thickens when the ten strangers begin mysteriously dying one by one. At first the other characters react in awe. Then the guests start blaming one another for the strange murders.

As the reader formulates a suspicion, each is disproven. Initially, Christie devotes much detail describing each character. A slow starter, the suspense builds. Although the book was published more than 50 years ago, it does not lose its intrigue with the passage of time. Through a series of shocking revelations, the author divulges how trusting people are easily victimized by evil manipulators. The plot was skillfully designed to mystify the reader. Mystery lovers should read this novel!



Movie Review

by Bryan Hooks

Just by finding out which actors were involved, one can see that the movie *Sleepers* would be a success. Some of the famous actors include Robert DeNiro, Brad Pitt, Kevin Bacon and Dustin Hoffman.

The movie starts out in a town called Hell's Kitchen with four rowdy boys. One day, when they got caught doing something wrong, they were sent to the Wilkenson School for Boys. At this school, they were deprived

and sexually abused by the guards. After they all left the detention center, they were scarred with these memories.

Nearly a decade later, it became time for vengeance. When two of the boys went to eat, they saw their former school guard. They walked over to him and killed him.

They were then put on trial. The ironic thing is that the prosecution lawyer was one of their best friends. With the close camaraderie of their town, they had their own priest lie for them to convince the judge and jury to decide a not guilty verdict. Their friend, the prosecution lawyer, quit practicing law. He took that case to set them free. The prosecution lawyer, played by Brad Pitt, even wrote the defense lawyer's examinations.

In the end, they were all together. The four boys, like it used to be. Little did they know that it would be the last time they would be together.

This movie was based on a true story and I encourage everyone to go see it.

STAR RATING SYSTEM

- ★★★★ Da Bomb
- ★★★ Better than a Mentos Commerical
- ★★ My Mom liked it
- ★ I'd rather do Calculus

Balance the scale

continued from front page
agrees upon certain courses to be weighted, but the gray area appears in departments like art, music, business and home economics.

Dr. Parry contends that the issue is not as important as everyone thinks it is. He said that most schools recalculate grades and weight certain subjects more heavily.

The new scale will be in effect for the 1997-98 school year.

Student teachers gain experience at AAHS

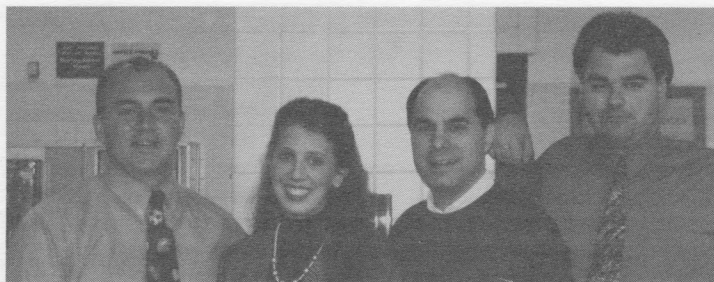
by Nicole Webb

Many high school students, upon graduating, will never set foot in a public school building again. Certain people, however, choose to spend the rest of their life in the classroom; not as students, but as educators.

During the second semester of the 1996-1997 school year, four student teachers will make Ambridge High School their home. They are as follows: Coach Terry George, Mr. Ralph Valenzi, Miss Meg Anderson and Mr. Damian Mannion.

While he was working in the USAIR Flight Department, Coach George decided to make a career change. He had been involved with high school sport programs like track a field, softball and football, for 19 years and knew that he wanted to continue working with teenagers. So, he went back to West Liberty College to complete a degree in business education.

Being a student teacher for Mrs. Sickles has shown Coach George what is involved in teaching and he says he now has a deeper respect for teachers. One thing that has shocked Coach George is how many students hate teachers just for the simple fact that they are teachers. He says



Ambridge High Schools' student teachers (l to r): Mr. George, Miss Anderson, Mr. Valenzi and Mr. Mannion.

Photo by Rich Kuzma

that too many students label him as "the bad guy" because he is a teacher.

As well as being Ambridge's boys football coach, Coach George is now head sponsor of girls' powder puff football. He organized powder puff football because it "gives the girls an opportunity to have fun." In Coach George's eyes, high school should be full of unique experiences and powder puff football should be one of them.

Mr. Valenzi is a student teacher in Miss Shriver's English classes. He is a undergraduate at Westminster College and a graduate of Duquesne University. Before becoming a teacher, he worked as a proofreader at the Westinghouse headquarters in Pittsburgh and as a tutor at Community College of Allegheny County.

Teaching is a way for Mr. Valenzi to fulfill his dream of helping future generations. He stated, "I've always felt education was important and I wanted to learn more about students. His least favorite part of teaching is administrative details.

As early as Miss Anderson's sophomore year of high school, she planned on majoring in music. During her second year at Geneva college she began giving private music lessons. By combining her love of music with teaching, she chose to become a music teacher. She is now a student teacher for Mr. Downey.

Miss Anderson is qualified to teach kindergarten through 12th grade. Before coming to the high school, she spent seven weeks as a student teacher at Anthony Wayne Elementary. She enjoys students

of all ages and especially enjoys getting students interested in music.

Although Miss Anderson lives in Pittsburgh, she is willing to move anywhere in order to teach. She stated that she would move to another country for the opportunity to teach others to share a love of music.

Mr. Mannion, like Miss Anderson, lives in Pittsburgh and is a student at Geneva College. At present he is a student teacher for Mr. Kielbowik but he also intends to teach some of Mr. Hladio's physics classes.

After graduating high school, Mr. Mannion chose not to enter college immediately. Instead he got a job and was able to get a better understanding of what the working world is like. He also devoted much of his time to bowling and in 1992 had a chance to become a professional bowler. It was during this phase of his life that he become more focused and he decided to enter college.

Mr. Mannion did not expect teaching to be an "inconsistent" job. He explained that there are some days when students understand the lesson and some days when they do not. That

continued on page 9

A giant LEAP for student council

by Jenni Richards

The Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils' 60th Annual State Conference was held October 17-19 at Mansfield University in Tioga County. Five Ambridge Area High School students, along with Mr. Kielbowik and Mr. Eagle, attended the two day event; which also hosted 850 students and 260 advisors representing over 200 schools from across Pennsylvania.

The opportunity to go was first offered to student council officers and accepted by senior Mike Colonna, sergeant-at-arms, and senior Shawn Valenta, corresponding secretary. It was then extended to student council members Carole Bunting, junior; Rob Vignere, junior and Kristin Pedersen, senior.

The PASC State Conference is a series of workshops and social activities geared towards teaching students leadership qualities and useful tips for running a student council smoothly. This year's theme was LEAP, Leadership Encourages Active Participation.

The workshops are run on both a senior and junior high level, with topics such as communication, building school spirit, self-esteem, stress management, teamwork, creative thinking, planning for the future, motivation and participation. They are intended to help students learn how to interact with others and actively take part in student council. There also were many speakers there to talk to the students and speak about their own experiences and share their

insight on life. The two main speakers were Madeline Manning Mims; a four-time Olympian, world record holder and gold and silver medalist; and Roger Crawford, a disabled tennis professional for the United States Professional Tennis Association, who once carried the Olympic torch. Other speakers were artist-writer Paul Palnik, trainer-educator Karen Vadino, Secretary of Education Eugene W. Hickok and Tioga County Representative Matt Baker.

The advisors also attended workshops teaching how to set up you own workshop, sharing ideas, scheduling student activities and running a student council. Mr. Kielbowik is the present AAHS Student Council Advisor and went to attend workshops to enhance the program. Mr. Eagle, who

plans on being the succeeding advisor, went to attend the workshops for new advisors. "Working with the students has been a positive experience," he said. "I hope to continue."

The conference was not all work, however. The students could also participate in sports, games and swimming, or attend the two dances and banquet that was held at the university. The banquet was "like a cocktail party without the cocktails," said Mr. Kielbowik.

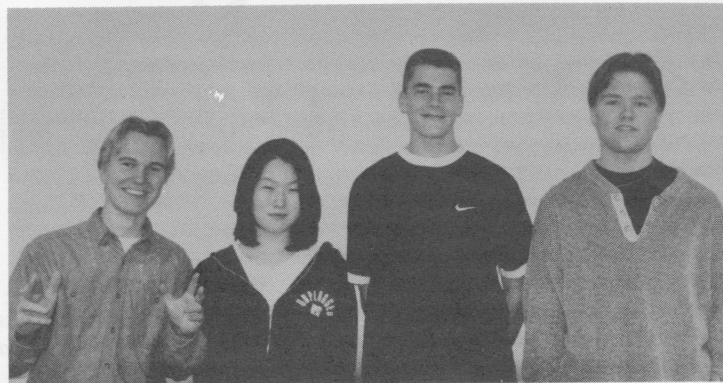
So how was the conference? "It was such a full experience that its hard to explain it in words," says Carole Bunting. Says Mr. Kielbowik, "Student council is the only thing you can belong to where you can meet other students on a cooperative basis without competing."

Coming to America

by Emily DelGreco

You could never tell by the way they look, but within the plethora of teen angst at Ambridge four foreign exchange students who prove that being a teenager is the same no matter where you're from. Seniors Petri Wiklund, Chris Illermann and Jae-Eun Suk and junior Enric Enrich all made their way across the Atlantic and somehow found themselves in the big city of Ambridge.

After interviewing the students, it's plain to see that, with the exception of the accent, there is no difference between Spanish students (Enric Enrich's home) and those in America. According to Enric, the distinction seems to lie in what you can and can not get away with in the U.S. When asked what he liked least about the country, he replied, "the drinking age." "[American] girls," are what he likes most. He enjoys American living, but he misses his motorcycle license and the "weekends" he spent with his friends. When asked to comment on the presidential elections, he replied, "I'm not following them." An interesting remark considering that the Spanish government consists of a king, queen and president. He feels that high school in Spain is "so much



Foreign Exchange Students (l to r): Enric Enrich from Spain, Jae-Eun Suk from Germany, Petri Wiklund from Finland and Chris Illermann from Denmark.
Photo by Rich Kuzma

harder." His toughest class here is geometry. Enric plays soccer for the high school team and is constantly making someone laugh. He will return to Spain in June and although he doesn't miss his family, Enric does miss his brother. "He is my best friend," he said.

Senior Jae-Eun Suk takes a different approach to adjusting. The German exchange student is very quiet and soft-spoken. Her favorite part of the U.S. is the people in general. When asked what she liked the least, Jae simply said, "I like almost everything." She admits that she misses her family. She'll be returning home in June. She feels that American schools are no different from

those in Germany as far as difficulty. Though, "They are stricter here with detention," she said. As far as her general opinion of the U.S. culture, the same phrase kept coming to her: "It's different," she said.

Senior Petri Wiklund of Finland is a member of the Ambridge hockey team. When he was interviewed, he was surrounded by his teammates and it was difficult to differentiate between his answers and the laughs. This would explain why he feels that "the people are friendly here." Petri claims not to miss his family in the least and is not very eager to return home in June. When asked what he disliked about American society, Petri said

he could do without "all the limits and curfews." this, of course, was followed by a roar of laughter from the crowd. He feels his stay in the U.S. will help him to "get to know different cultures" and improve his English. During his stay, he hopes to meet people and have fun." From the looks of things, he already has a good start.

Senior Chris Illermann was also surrounded by giggles during his interview, giggling girls, that is. As far as American society, the Danish student kept remarking about how "silly" the people are. In between laughs, he recalled being surprised beyond belief after seeing "a group of people doing the 'Macarena.'" On a more serious note Chris remarked, "I don't have as much freedom here as in Denmark." He was especially careful to include that his weekend curfew in America is 11:00 p.m. "At home," he said, "I could stay out all night if I wanted."

Chris's eyes lit up as he mentioned "Hollywood!" He would like to someday be a cameraman in the movies. He likes America and may stay, "If I find a wife or a girlfriend here." His stay concludes in July.

All of the students seem to be enjoying themselves. They have gotten a generally good impression of America, but more importantly, of Ambridge.

Students bowl in "spare" time

by Sarah Clark

Ambridge Area High School is usually known for its award-winning band and its not-so-award-winning football team. But how many people have heard about Ambridge's exceptional bowlers? Probably only about three, the bowlers themselves, Mike Stehle, Bill Cain and Garrett Mudrick.

Mike Stehle, a senior, has been bowling since his father introduced him to the sport when Mike was 12 years old. He bowled at his first tournament when he was 14 and even won a youth tournament at Imperial Lanes in Conway when he was 16. Since then, he has been in 15 other tournaments. Some of these

amateur tournaments have allowed him to travel as far as Maryland, Ohio, West Virginia and New York, though he never strays far from his home lanes in Conway.

Mike is very modest when asked about his bowling abilities, even though his average is 207 points per game. Will he continue bowling after high school? According to Mike, "If it happens, it happens. It would be nice to have it."

Bill Cain, senior, started bowling at age 7 and is now in his tenth year. He has bowled in the Greater Pittsburgh Association Scholarship Tournament, where he placed fourth, the State Teen Tournament and the Keystone National Tour, where he was the only person from Beaver County

to place in the top 20. Bill has traveled to Ohio and West Virginia to bowl in tournaments. In all, he has bowled in 25 tournaments.

Bill bowls at his home lanes at Beaver Valley Bowl about twice a week. He is involved in the Junior Bowlers' League there and also the Beaver County Junior

Travel League, which started up on November 3.

Bill has had an excellent amateur bowling career so far with an average of approximately 200 points per game. His highest score was 279 points, and his highest series (total points accumulated from three consecutive games) was 684 points.

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The Silhouette turns back the clock

by Mike Dwyer

On October 12, 1922, the students of Ambridge High School were given a voice. They were given a forum to express their views, their opinions and their news. On October 12, 1922, the first issue of the *Silhouette* was published. For 74 years now, the fine inhabitants of room B8 have been reporting the news to you.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the *Silhouette* was very similar to the papers delivered to your home. For a whopping 75 cents, a one year subscription could be purchased. The paper was published every other week, with special senior, junior and sophomore editions. Some members of some of the first *Silhouettes* were: Editor-in-chief Richard Hostetter, Managing Editor Edwin Banks and Business Manager Thomas McCrory. The 32 staff members and faculty advisor Mr. Earl Bennett would bring you county news, school news, reviews, fiction, poems, jokes, editorials, advice, opinion, notes on clubs and alumni, and of course, football news.

Football was big news in December of 1930 when, under the headline of "The Best Ambridge Football Team Ever" the *Silhouette* ran a full-page article describing the undefeated Ambridge Hurricanes, as they were called in 1930. Led by coach Moe Rubenstein, the Hurricanes were riding on the crest of a 20 game winning streak that spanned two seasons. They had gone through the entire season undefeated, untied and unscored upon and seemed poised to take the Beaver County championship when it was discovered that they had used an ineligible player in one of their games, making that blowout victory a heartbreaking

This month in Silhouette history...

October 12, 1922- Under a nameplate full of questionmarks, the first issue of our school newspaper ran a contest to decide the name of the paper.

forfeit loss.

The paper changed immensely over the years. Because of paper shortages, the decision was made to make the *Silhouette* a monthly publication. A junior high paper, *The Junior High Crier*, was added. Poetry and joke sections were eliminated. The *Silhouette* also dropped most county news to concentrate on the school's internal affairs. To increase profits, the senior, junior and sophomore editions were also dropped. The class of 1930 did get one more issue of its own, however--in June of 1960, for their thirtieth reunion. In the fifties, once a year, Miss *Silhouette* would be crowned at the *Silhouette* Talent Assembly. One major gaffe was committed in the fifties when the school paper was renamed *The Girder*. Students disliked the name so much that a flood of petitions and complaints were received. The staffers finally came to their senses in 1962, when they went back to its original name.

By the seventies, the school paper had gone to the 8 1/2 by 11 inch format that the *Silhouette* uses today. The paper was one cover page holding seven unstapled, typewritten pages. By this time, the sponsor was Miss Windisch. The contents included horoscopes, classified ads, a school calendar and puzzle pages. One example of the fine articles written in the '70s was one that ran in 1975 describing the National Honor Society's Ugly Contest, won by Mr. Persi.

In the eighties, the

Silhouette underwent many adjustments. They changed the size of the paper and used computers for the first time in the printing process. They also trimmed the staff to eighteen members. New editions to the pages were Teacher Features, several gossip columns, Girl of the Month and everyone's favorite: Grapevines. Mrs. Fitzpatrick was the faculty advisor, and the editor-in-chief was Steve Witowich. The 1980s also saw the early years of Mr. Dennis DeAngelis, the *Silhouette's* current faculty advisor. Several tough issues were tackled in the glamour decade, though. When a toxic waste dump was discovered in the old Bollinger Steel Plant on Eleventh Street, only one block away from the high school, the *Silhouette* ran it on the

front page and thoroughly reported on the EPA's actions. The beginning of the Kulik dynasty as cartoonist for the *Silhouette* when Greg Kulik first graced page 12 with his strip, *The Ebony Ghost and Kid Ninja*. (see Joe's strip, *Earl the Superhero*, on page 12)

For almost three-quarters of a century, the *Silhouette* has been a school institution. While researching this article, I felt as though I had entered a time warp. The papers offered a chance to understand what being young in different times was like. By the way, we will be printing a "This Month in Silhouette History" box in this and following issues. So maybe you should hold on to this paper. I doubt it will become a collector's item, but it will give you a window to look back on some of the best years of your life.

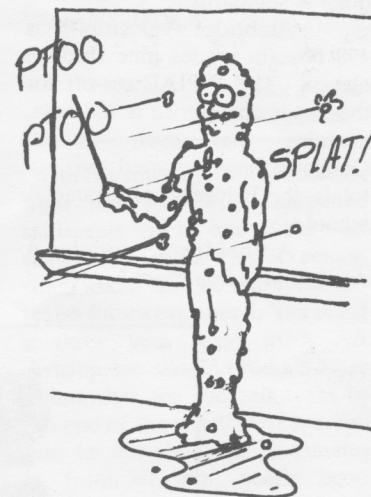
Student Teachers

continued from page 7

can be frustrating, but he puts it out of his mind and tries to do better the next day. A big adjustment Mr. Mannion has had to make in his life in order to teach is waking up at 6 a.m. In college, he had grown accustomed to staying up late to study and sleeping during the day. Getting up early has been worth it though, because he enjoys his classes.

When asked where he would like to work, Mr. Mannion aid, "I'm open for just about anywhere." He added that Mr. Kielbowick's job will be open soon and that he likes Ambridge. "Quality here [at Ambridge] is exceptional. Teachers are very competent. Administrative is supportive."

Each of these student teachers share a common desire to help their students. Through becoming a teacher, they hope to pass on a love of their subject to their students.



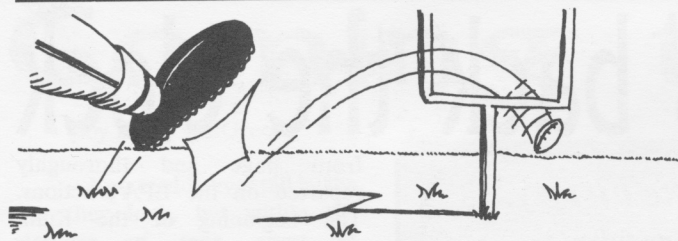
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Ambridge/Quigley merger stirs controversy over Quad A status

by Rich Dugan

The Ambridge-Quigley cooperative sponsorship of sports has not caused the plague of Bridger athletics, our quad A distinction. A common belief at Ambridge High School is that the Ambridge-Quigley merger has caused the amount of boys to go up over the WPIAL's quad A regulations.

The Ambridge-Quigley merger was created in 1994 by former athletic director Leonard Chiaverini. Its purpose was to allow Quigley students the opportunity to play football, cross country and track and field under the Bridger name. The agreement is valid for two years and renewable. Also, the merger is deemed void at any time that Ambridge's numbers go under the quad A standards.

Ambridge currently has 498 boys in grades nine through eleven. The WPIAL cut-off for the upper conference is 458 boys, meaning that even without Quigley's boys counted on our totals, the Bridgers are a quad A school.

Ambridge's quad A distinction is important because it

forces them to compete against the largest schools in the commonwealth. It has teams, especially the football team, play against schools with more students and more money. The conference has forced the Bridgers to work as hard as they physically are able, simply to be overmatched. The quad A conference has ruined football player's senior seasons. It has taken lifelong memories and deformed them into a nightmare of defeat and ridicule.

The question has to be asked; if the Ambridge-Quigley merger is not the blame, what is? The answer ... the WPIAL, by refusing to make a 5-A conference, like many other states have, including Ohio. By making a fifth conference, teams would play their equals. There would be no 12,000 Butler students playing 1200 Bridgers, and there certainly wouldn't be an 83-7 score.

When I was assigned this editorial, I was prepared to blast the Ambridge-Quigley merger; however, its not to blame for our conference. It is terrible what the students and athletes had to go through with the losses. However, the only one to blame is the WPIAL.

Kowalski exemplifies excellence



Photo by Missy Smoley

by Jaime Cole

Senior Tina Marie Kowalski is a girls' volleyball star and much more. Tina has been playing volleyball since she was in seventh grade. When she was in tenth grade she made the Junior Olympic team. The team consists of the elite volleyball players in the Pittsburgh area. Tina has travelled to Florida, Colorado and California with the team to compete in various tournaments. Last year they vied for the national championship in San Jose, California. When asked about the experience she smiles and says, "We had so much fun!"

Tina is presently taking CP English, trigonometry, psychology and planet earth. She is an active member of Senior Class, Student Council and Documentary Film club. She would like to be more

involved, but says there is just "no time."

Next year Tina is planning to attend college, but she has not quite decided where yet. She is looking into St. Bonaventure in rural New York and Loyola College located in Baltimore, Maryland. When asked how she will make her final decision she simply responds with "whoever wants to give me a full scholarship." Tina plans to major in nutrition science and hopes to become a clinical dietitian.

Her great athletic ability, intricate hairdos and silver Pisces jewelry are just a few characteristics of Tina, but her friends know her best by her beautiful smile and caring heart.

Favorite Sport: Volleyball

Favorite Number: 13

Favorite Pre-game meal: Spaghetti

Favorite Hobby: Hockey card collecting

Something about her that would surprise you: God is her best friend



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Basketball team "rebounds"

by Mike Cody

After two years, the job hasn't gotten any easier.

Boys' basketball Coach Jeff Meddock is facing what many fans believe to be his second uphill struggle in as many years. Last year's Bridgers, who were a mostly young team with a brand new coach, still managed to finish their season with a competitive 11-13 record. In the beginning of the season, some fans thought that the Bridgers were playoff bound. But a string of hard losses dampened the spirits of both fans and the team itself.

This year, a key part of Coach Meddock's strategy is helping his team develop their "overall ability to deal with a loss." When asked about the team's disillusionment after tough games last season, Coach Meddock said, "This time I think we'll be a lot more mentally tough."

Although the Bridgers



Ambridge basketball players practice hard for the up and coming season.

Photo by Missy Smoley

certainly face tough battle with powerhouses New Castle and Butler, Coach Meddock feels that Ambridge could be a serious playoff contender this season. Experienced seniors Yavonne Leggs and Ron Janicki and junior

Rob Bouterse are expected to lead the team. The Bridgers also boast several young prospects in Timmy Kingas, Mike Rivera and Justin Wanchick. Thanks in part to a rough summer league schedule, this year's team should be tougher

and more prepared for the task ahead.

Bridger basketball is already recapturing some of the spirit of excitement among students and community that the team held in years past. "If we have anywhere near the attendance we had last year, I'd be very pleased," Coach Meddock said. The Bridgers received a great deal of support last season from students and Ambridge residents, even at the season's end, when times were tough. As thanks to the community for all their help, this year's Bridgers will continue with the community service last year's team made important. November 15 is Madness Night, which offers a great opportunity for Ambridge fans to come out and show their support for the team. Still, even diehard Bridger fans have to admit that the team's goal of reaching the playoffs may seem lofty, but not impossible.

Hockey Team sets its "goals"

by Bryan Hooks

The 1996-1997 hockey team is looking forward to a very productive season. Although they have not played any real games yet, the team is 1-1-1 in scrimmages against Center, Beaver and Steel Valley.

The team plays its first section game against Penn-Trafford on November 3rd. Ambridge will host its opponents this year at Bladerunners Ice Complex. The head coach of the team is Tony Miller.

The 1996-97 hockey team has a large number of upperclassmen and returning lettermen. One addition to the team this year is Petri Wiklund from Finland. When asked how European hockey and American hockey differ, Petri said, "The rinks in Europe are bigger. It makes American hockey more physical. Since the European rinks have more room, there is much more offense." Senior Dan Newmeyer, when asked how he felt about this year when compared to past years replied,

"...this will be one of our best seasons."

-- John Pitaro
senior

"With the starting lineup returning from last year with sharpened skills, this will be one of our best seasons." John Pitaro, senior, when asked how he felt about the team's future exclaimed, "For being a three year team in a AA division, we should produce more points than the football team by the end of the year!" When asked how he felt about his teammates in front of him, goalie Scott Kokoski ended with, "I have a heck of a team in front of me!"

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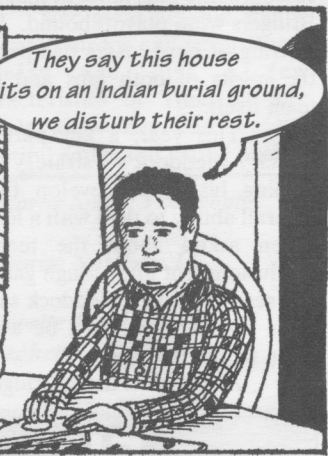
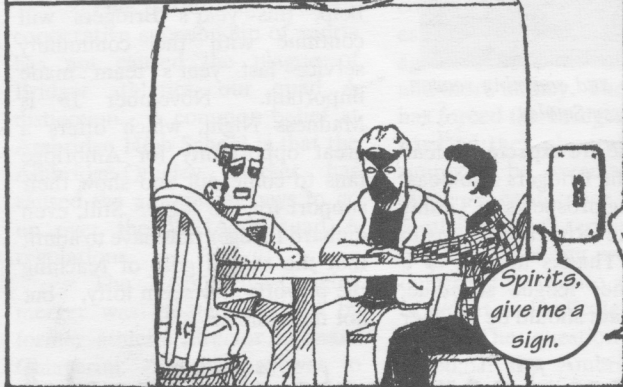
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Last issue Earl made a deal with an old guy to get rid of his ghosts in return for a Mallo Cup.



The mysterious guest set up his Ouiji board to contact spirits.



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